tors in the police department and police stations in the Union Territory of Delhi; and

(c) how many Urdu knowing persons are employed with Delhi Police at the moment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) A certain amount of work in the Police Stations in Delhi was earlier transacted in Urdu language. However, it is now mostly transacted in Hindi. There is therefore no felt-need to specifically recruit Urdu knowing personnel in the Police Stations. Nonetheless, the police personnel are detailed to attend the Urdu classes held by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and during the last three years 40 police personnel were deputed to attend these classes.

Role of National Foundation for Communal Harmony

2848. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the role and activities of National Foundation for Communal Harmony since its inception;

(b) whether there is a proposal to change the profile and role of NFCH; and

(c) whether it is a fact that IB and RAW will be using NFCH for their activities abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH)is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It was registered on 19th February, 1992 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. The main objects of NFCH are as follows:

(i) To undertake programmes for providing assistance to the children of families affected by communal, caste, ethnic and any other form of violence/clashes which fracture social harmony;

(ii) To undertake programmes for assisting in the physical and psychological rehabilitation of the children, families or other victims of communal, caste, ethnic and any other form of violence/clashes;

(iii) To promote activities for the promotion of communal harmony and national integration; and

(iv) To promote activities, which will highlight and strengthen the bonds of unity and affinity between different religious and other groups in the country.

(b) There is no proposal to change the role of National Foundation for Communal Harmony.

(c) No, Sir.

Spurt in bomb blasts incidents

2849. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a spurt in bomb blasts in Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the incidents of bomb blasts in the country during the last six months, the type of material used therein, number of persons killed and injured and the compensation paid to injured and kins of deceased;

(c) whether anybody claimed responsibility or whether Government detected the group(s) responsible for these blasts;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to nab the culprits and prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) In recent months, following five significant bomb blasts have taken place in various parts of the country:

(i) On Nov. 21, 2002, an IED placed in a scooter exploded outside the Sai Temple in Dilsukhnagar area on the outskirts of Hyderabad city, resulting in death of one person and injuries to 18. Low power explosive was used in the blast.

(ii) An explosion took place in a bus near Ghatkopar Station (West), Mumbai on Dec. 2, 2002 killing 2 persons and injuring 37. The ground test indicated presence of nitrate based high explosive.

(iii) On 6th Dec. 2002, an explosion took place in Mc Donald's restaurant at Mumbai Central Railway Station, Mumbai injuring 25 persons. The test indicated that the bomb consisted of potassium nitrate, nitrite, sulpher, gun powder etc.